

17/PRTS

Title: DIGITAL POWER CONTROLLER

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FIELD OF THE INVENTION

10 This invention relates to power controllers and more specifically relates to a power controller, using digital implementation with such stand-alone features as automatic shut down; dead time control, close to inductive side driving; and filament connections.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 Power controllers are well known and normally employ analog techniques. Digital techniques are normally avoided where smooth control is desired, for example, in controlling the dimming gas discharge lamps such as fluorescent lamps in an electronic ballast.

20 The present invention provides a novel digital implementation for power control circuits, particularly for the control of fluorescent lamp dimming.

25 Some limitations on analog power control systems are:

I. Inflexible driving algorithm

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This application is a 371 of PCT/IB99/02087 filed December 7, 1999,
which claims benefit of serial number 60/111,296 filed December 7, 1998,
and claims benefit of serial number 60/111,235 filed December 7, 1998,
and claims benefit of serial number 60/111,302 filed December 7, 1998,
and claims benefit of serial number 60/111,322 filed December 7, 1998,
and claims benefit of serial number 60/111,216 filed December 7, 1998